

The RAYMOND RECORDER

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A. J. WEAVER, Editor

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HISTORY OF RAYMOND

By ELIZABETH KING

FORMER RAYMOND MAYOR AND PRESIDENT OF AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION.

Thomas Jefferson O'Brien came to Raymond from Layton, Utah in 1903 in connection with the Knight Sugar Co.'s operations in this district and from the day of his arrival until the time of his sudden passing he freely gave his friendship, his time and his talents to the service of his fellow men. Even before coming to Canada T. J. O'Brien was a very active man. He filled a 3 1/2 year mission to New Zealand.

He led the Layton Choir for many years and taught school there for a short time. The late J. W. Evans and John H. F. Green, both pioneers of Raymond were pupils of his school and both these men paid high tribute to him as their friend and school teacher. Mr. Evans stated that: "His representation of the finer things of life were always evidenced by the maxims he gave his students for reading practice". In a letter John Green wrote to Mr. O'Brien on his 75th birthday he paid this tribute to him:

"When I was a small boy and you in your teens and later when I was in my teens and you in young manhood I always looked upon you as a little above the average. There was something in you I always admired. You seemed to have a magnetic spirit that always drew people to you and always you have been as true and loyal to friends as the magnetic needle to the pole."

"As I look over the experiences in the old brick school house in the hollow, 'Hawk's Hollow', there are none of the teachers so outstanding as Thomas Jefferson O'Brien."

In talking with his daughter Angelina, she paid a tender and fitting tribute to her father by saying: "My Dad was one of the best hearted men that ever lived on his farm. In his quiet way he seemed to sense and understand the needs of people and immediately set out to help them. Since my father's death dozens of people have told me they would have gone hungry had it not been for the help of my father."

Mr. O'Brien held many civic positions in the town of Raymond.

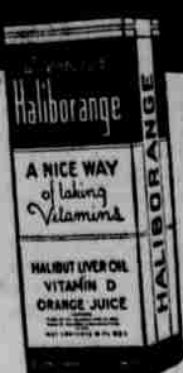
He was at one time Justice of the Peace; Bailiff; Mayor from 1915 to 1919. He was town councilman perhaps longer than any other man. Town records reveal he was councilman from 1907 to 1915 when he was elected Mayor. From an old Raymond Rustler, edited by David L. Elton and dated October 8, 1907 with cut of T. J. O'Brien and under caption in large headlines we read the following: "Who hasn't watched with a keen interest the work of the Raymond Agricultural Association? Ever since the dissolution with the Desert Agricultural Assoc. (Magrath) there has been a good lively organization here. Mr. T. J. O'Brien, Field Superintendent for the Knight Sugar Factory is one of the most popular men among the farmers not only in Raymond but throughout the whole of southern Alberta. He is also one of the 'boys' when it comes to the baseball diamond. It is as simple as his 'A.B.C.'s."

He is in love with Southern Alberta for the opportunities that she presents for the young and willin. More over, from a farmer's scientific view he reasons that Alberta is the best. His work in connection with the



many mothers are glad they discovered

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Raymond Pharmacy

Sugar Factor takes him all over the district many times a year and he has come to be recognized authority on crops, yields, estimates etc. Mr. O'Brien is a Utahn by birth but a thoroughbred Canadian by adoption. Tom O'Brien was in the height of his glory when taking part in a de-

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Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hatch of Rand, Utah, Mrs. Dora M. McBeth of Winnipeg are here visiting at the home of their father David Meldrum.

Miss Ramona Heggie has accepted the position of stenographer at the Town Office.